

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 8, 2004. Claims 39 to 44 and 47 to 54 are in the application, of which Claims 39, 43, 44, 50 and 54 are independent. Claims 45 and 46 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 39 to 44 are being amended, and Claims 47 to 54 are being added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, with respect to a formal matter, Applicants respectfully request return of an initialed PTO-1449 to indicate that the art cited in the December 7, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement has been considered and made of record in the present application.

Turning to the Office Action, Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claim 41 is being amended herein, and such amendments are believed to render the rejection moot.

Claims 39 to 43, 45 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. More particularly, Claim 39 is rejected for allegedly being unclear as to what type of information is being provided. In addition, Claims 39, 43 and 44 are rejected on the basis that it is allegedly unclear to what subsequent occurrences “first information” refers. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection Claims 45 and 46 are being cancelled, and Claims 39 to 44 are being amended. It is believed that the amendments made to Claims 39 to 44 render their rejection moot.

Claims 39 to 43, 45 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as allegedly

being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action cites MPEP § 2106.IV.B.2(b). As mentioned above, Claims 45 and 46 are being cancelled without concession as to the correctness of the rejection. Claim 39 is amended to refer to a computer-executable method. Accordingly, Claim 39, together with Claims 40 to 42 which depend from Claim 39, are believed to recite statutory subject matter. As regards Claim 43, it is noted that it is directed to an apparatus. Therefore, since the cited portion of the MPEP is limited to a process and Claim 43 is directed to an apparatus, the cited portion of the MPEP not seen to be applicable. In view of the above, since Claims 39 to 43 are believed to recite statutory subject matter, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 39 to 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,006,225 (Bowman). Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claims 45 and 46 are being cancelled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 39 is directed to computer-executable method of providing information. In a first storing step of the method, a first information associated with an identification code is stored in a database. A first search step searches for first information corresponding to an inputted identification code, wherein the first information has a keyword which is different from the identification code associated with the first information. A second search step searches for second information based on the keyword of the searched first information. Content of the searched first information and of the searched second information is output together in an output step.

Among other important features of Claim 39 are searching for first information corresponding to an inputted identification code, wherein the first information has an associated identification code and a keyword which is different from the associated identification code, searching for second information based on the keyword of the searched first information, and outputting the content of the searched first information and the content of the searched second information together.

The applied art, namely Bowman, is not seen to show these features.

Bowman is seen to describe identifying refinements to a current search query and suggesting terms determined to be related to terms in the current search query as query refinements, where the relatedness is determined by previous search queries and the frequency with which the related terms were used with terms of the current search query in the previous search queries. (See Bowman, Abstract and col. 2, line 28 to col. 3, line 30) Referring to Figure 9 and the description beginning at col. 14, line 13, Bowman is seen to describe conducting a search based on the current search query, "OUTDOOR TRAIL", and displaying the results of the search together with hyperlinks to initiate a narrowing search using a related term.

However, Bowman is not seen to search for first information corresponding to an inputted identification code, wherein the first information has an associated identification code and a keyword which is different from the associated identification code, searching for second information based on the keyword of the searched first information, and outputting the content of the searched first information and the content of the searched second information together.

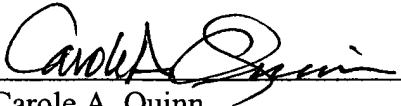
Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 39 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 43 and 44, 50 and 54 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

The other claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Carole A. Quinn
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 39,000

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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